DATA REQUEST #14
TRANSMISSION SYSTEM ENGINEERING

BACKGROUND

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires the identification and description of the "Direct and indirect significant effects of the project on the environment." For the identification of indirect or downstream transmission impacts, staff relies on the System Impact and Facilities Studies as well as review of these studies by the agency responsible for insuring that the interconnecting grid meets reliability standards, in this case, the Imperial Irrigation District (IID). The studies analyze the effect of the proposed project on the ability of the transmission network to meet reliability standards. When the studies determine that the project will cause the transmission to violate reliability requirements, the potential mitigation or upgrades required to bring the system into compliance are identified. The mitigation measures often include the construction of downstream transmission facilities. CEQA requires the analysis of any downstream facilities for potential indirect impacts of the proposed project. Without a complete System Impact Study, staff is not able to fulfill the CEQA requirement to identify the indirect effects of the proposed project.

According to the System Impact Study," The interconnection of the proposed generating facility to the existing 92 kV transmission system was found to have no significant impact on the IID system as shown by the lack of overload and voltage violations." The study also found that the proposed project would have minimal affects on the transmission networks of neighboring utilities. However, staff is concerned that the study is not complete and does not provide mitigation measures for identified overloads.

The System Impact Study identified overloads in some transmission elements (Page 5 of the system impact study report), but did not address the mitigation measures required to eliminate the overloads. The study also did not analyze the effect of the potential outage of the El Centro switching station 92 kV bus where about twelve 92 kV transmission lines, two step-up transformers (230/92 kV & 161/92 kV), and four El Centro generators are now connected. Because this outage was not studied, no mitigation for a possible overload was identified, and impacts of the proposed project may have been missed. Staff has included a list of other contingencies or outages that were not included in the System Impact Study (located after Data Requests 16 and 17).

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14. The SIS states, "Generation higher in IID's queue was included". Please provide a list of IID's queue generation included in the 2009 Power Flow base case. If necessary, please file for confidentiality when submitting this information.

DATA RESPONSE

The following queue generation projects were included in all cases; the net generation value is shown in the table for each of the queue projects:

Project Name	MW	Interconnection Voltage	Location	In Service Year
Salton Sea 6	200	230 kV	Midway-Bannister 230-kV line	2008
Niland Generation	100	161 kV	Niland Substation	2008
Confidential	4	92 kV	South of El Centro Substation	2005
Confidential	15	92 kV	North of El Centro Substation	2007
Confidential	20	161 kV	Salton Sea	2010